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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/023,019 | 12/18/2001 | Andrew Mark Player | applied_106 | 2473 |

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| EXAMINER |
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SURYAWANSHI, SURESH

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2115

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/023,019

Applicant(s)

PLAYER, ANDREW MARK

Examiner

Suresh K Suryawanshi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-14,17-22 and 24-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-14,17-22 and 24-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 4-14, 17-22 and 24-33 are presented for examination.

Drawings

2. This application, filed under former 37 CFR 1.60, lacks formal drawings. The informal drawings filed in this application are acceptable for examination purposes. When the application is allowed, applicant will be required to submit new formal drawings. In unusual circumstances, the formal drawings from the abandoned parent application may be transferred by the grant of a petition under 37 CFR 1.182.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, 6, 12-14, 17-22, 24-26 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Clee et al (US Patent no 6,029,248¹).

¹ The prior art cited by examiner in the prior-office action (dated 10/5/04).

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5. As per claim 1, Clee et al teach

receiving configuration data bytes addressed to device registers [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 2-9; the printer receives configuration data bytes from the computer];

loading the received configuration data in configuration registers [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 2-9; microcontroller loads the received configuration data into the configuration registers 15 through n]; and

locking to prevent the loading of subsequently received configuration data as follows:

establishing at least one locking register having a first address [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 2-24; the locking register];

loading a first lock set in the locking register [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 2-24; locking the locking register]; and

in response to loading the first lock set in the locking register, preventing the loading of received data in the configuration registers [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 2-24; after locking the locking register, no new configuration data can be loaded into the configuration registers 15 thorough n].

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6. As per claim 14, Clee et al teach

booting the system up [inherent to the system];

supplying data to provision at least one network-connected device as follows:

supplying data bytes addressed to the device registers [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 2-9;
the printer receives configuration data bytes from the computer]; and

loading the received data in the device configuration registers [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines
2-9; microcontroller loads the received configuration data into the configuration registers
15 through n]; and

locking the network-connected device to prevent subsequent data provisioning as
follows:

supplying at least a first lock set [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 2-24; inherently a lock set
will be required for locking the locking register];

loading the first lock set in at least one locking register having a first address [Fig.
1; col. 2, lines 2-24; locking the locking register]; and

in response to loading the first lock set in the locking register, preventing the loading of subsequently provisioned data in the device configuration registers [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 2-24; after locking the locking register, no new configuration data can be loaded into the configuration registers 15 thorough n].

7. As per claim 22, Clee et al teach

a plurality of configuration registers having a corresponding plurality of addresses [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 2-9; configuration registers 15 through n]; and

at least one locking register [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 2-24; the locking register], having a first address, to prevent the loading of data in the configuration registers in response to being loaded with a first lock set [Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 2-24; after locking the locking register, no new configuration data can be loaded into the configuration registers 15 thorough n].

8. As per claims 4, 17 and 24, Clee et al teach that loading a first lock set in the locking register includes loading a first lock set having a unique value [col. 2, lines 30-39].

9. As per claim 5, Clee et al teach that loading a non-lock set, not equal to the first lock set, in the locking register [col. 2, lines 30-39]; and in response to loading the non-lock set in the locking register, loading received in the configuration registers [col. 2, line 43-50].

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10. As per claim 6, Clee et al teach that loading a non-lock set, not equal to the first lock set, in the locking register includes loading a key set having a unique value [col. 2, lines 30-39]; and wherein loading received data in the configuration registers in response to loading the non-lock set in the locking register includes loading received data in response to the key set [col. 2, line 43-50].

11. As per claim 12, Clee et al teach that following the loading the first lock set in the locking register, loading a non-lock set in the locking register [col. 2, lines 10-50]; and in response to the non-lock set, permitting write access to the configuration registers [col. 2, lines 10-50].

12. As per claim 13, Clee et al teach that loading a non-lock set in the locking register includes the non-lock set being a key set having a unique value [col. 2, lines 30-39].

13. As per claim 18, Clee et al teach that supplying a non-lock set, not equal to the first lock set [col. 2, lines 10-50]; loading the non-lock set in the device locking register [col. 2, lines 30-39]; and in response to loading the non-lock set in the locking register, provisioning the device configuration registers [col. 2, lines 10-50].

14. As per claim 19, Clee et al teach that supplying a non-lock set, not equal to the first lock set includes supplying a key set having a unique value [col. 2, lines 10-50].

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15. As per claim 20, Clee et al teach that following the loading the first lock set in the locking register, loading a non-lock set value in the locking register [col. 2, lines 10-50]; and in response to the non-lock set, permitting write access to the configuration registers [col. 2, lines 10-50].

16. As per claim 21, Clee et al teach that the non-lock set is a key having a unique value [col. 2, lines 30-39].

17. As per claim 25, Clee et al teach that the locking register is loaded with a non-lock set not equal to the first lock set, and wherein the locking register permits the loading of data in the configuration registers in response to the non-lock set [col. 2, line 10-50].

18. As per claim 26, Clee et al teach that the locking register is loaded with a key set having a unique value, and wherein the locking register permits the loading of data in the configuration registers in response to the key set [col. 2, lines 30-50].

19. As per claim 32, Clee et al teach that the at least one locking register accepts a non-lock set, following the loading the first lock set, and permits write access to the configuration registers in response to the non-lock set [col. 2, lines 10-50].

20. As per claim 33, Clee et al teach that the non-lock set is a key set with a unique value [col. 2, lines 30-39].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

21. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

22. Claims 7-11 and 27-31, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clee et al (US Patent no 6,029,248¹).

23. As per claims 7 and 27, Clee et al disclose the invention substantially. Clee et al clearly teach about one locking register. Clee et al do not disclose having a second locking register. However, a routineer in the art would be able to use another locking register after knowing how to use one locking register if there is a need of a second locking register. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention and add one more locking register. Moreover, by having two locking registers, one can clearly increase the security of configuration data as now there will be required a double unlocking of the locking registers before the configuration data can be overwritten.

24. As per claims 8 and 28, Clee et al teach that establishing a first locking register having a first address and a second locking register having a second address includes establishing non-contiguous first and second addresses [inherent to the system; col. 2, lines 34-36].

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25. As per claims 9-10 and 29-30, it is clearly the choice of the user or the designer to have the first and second lock sets having values that are equal or unequal.

26. As per claims 11 and 31, Clee et al disclose the invention substantially. Clee et al clearly teach about one locking register. Clee et al do not disclose having a plurality of locking registers. However, a routineer in the art would be able to use a number of locking registers after knowing how to use one locking register if there is a need of use of a number of locking registers. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention and add a number of locking registers. Moreover, by having a plurality of locking registers, one can clearly increase the security of configuration data as now there will be required a plurality of unlocking of the locking registers before the configuration data can be overwritten.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suresh K Suryawanshi whose telephone number is 571-272-3668. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:30pm.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on 571-272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

sks

December 13, 2004


THOMAS LEE
SENIOR PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100